



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,836	10/22/2001	Komatsu Hiroshi	8733.036.21	8478

30827 7590 07/21/2003

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP  
1900 K STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

[REDACTED]  
EXAMINER

TON, MINH TOAN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2871	

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



***Double Patenting***

1. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

2. Claims 28-34, 36-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-10 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,317,183. This is a double patenting rejection.

The present application and the patent claim a liquid crystal display (LCD) device comprising: a first substrate; a first alignment layer on the first substrate; a second substrate; a second alignment layer on the second substrate; a liquid crystal layer between the first substrate and the second substrate; a gate line on the first substrate; and data and common electrodes on the first substrate, the data electrode being connected to a data line and the common electrode being connected to a common line, and a distance between the electrodes being less than a thickness of the liquid crystal layer.

The present application and the patent claim an alignment direction of liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer adjacent to the first substrate is parallel to the gate line.

The present application and the patent claim an alignment direction of liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer adjacent to the first substrate is perpendicular to the gate line.

The present application and the patent claim the first electrode has a first electrode width, the second electrode has second electrode width approximately equal to the first electrode width, and a distance between the first electrode and the second electrode is approximately equal to the first electrode width.

The present application and the patent claim a polarizer formed on the first substrate and an analyzer formed on the second substrate.

The present application and the patent claim a thin film transistor formed between the first substrate and the first alignment layer.

The present application and the patent claim a retardation film formed on said second substrate.

---

Per the limitations pertaining the strength (see claims 38-41), these are inherent to the device.

3. Claims 28-31, 33-42 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-26 of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,186. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the present claims are broader in scope than the patented claims.

The present application and the patent claim a liquid crystal display (LCD) device comprising: a first substrate; a first alignment layer on the first substrate; a second substrate; a second alignment layer on the second substrate; a liquid crystal layer between the first substrate and the second substrate; a gate line on the first substrate; and data and common electrodes on the first substrate, the data electrode being connected to a data line and the common electrode being connected to a common line, and a distance between the electrodes being less than a thickness of the liquid crystal layer (see patented claim 24).

The present application and the patent claim an alignment direction of liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer adjacent to the first substrate is parallel to the gate line.

The present application and the patent claim an alignment direction of liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer adjacent to the first substrate is perpendicular to the gate line.

The present application and the patent claim a polarizer formed on the first substrate and an analyzer formed on the second substrate.

-----  
The present application and the patent claim different anchoring strength between the two alignment layers.

The use of a retardation film is common and known in the art for advantages such as improved viewing-angle.

Per the limitations pertaining the strength (see claims 38-41), these are inherent to the device.

***Contact Information***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan Ton whose telephone number is (703) 305-3489. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956.

July 17, 2003

TOANTON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER